

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 97-1-13**

Date Prepared: January 9, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: January 13, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: January 13, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. EAS Dockets D95.10.146 and D95.10.147 - Discuss and act on all matters necessary, including review of information obtained at stipulation presentation and direction on final order (1/14/97)
2. MPC Docket D96.2.22 - Discuss and act as necessary on status of settlement, suspension, and any other matter requiring attention (1/14/97)
3. AT&T/USWC Docket D96.11.200 - Discuss prehearing work sessions and procedures (1/14/97)
4. MPC Docket D96.6.106 - Discuss the filing, obtain Commission decisions and get direction on drafting an order (1/14/97)
5. Citizens/Montana Communications/USWC Docket D96.11.191 - Vote on vacating the hearing and other dates on procedural schedule, submit briefs by Jan 21 and the parties' agreement to stipulate to the record (1/14/97)
6. Goals/objectives of Compliance/Tariffs/Public Information Bureau - Present goals/objectives of bureau; obtain feedback (1/14/97)

7. Local competition/arbitration rulemaking - Action on proposed rules to adopt, modify and adopt, or withdraw regarding each proposed rule (1/14/97)
8. The Commission's continued discussion of Electric Industry Restructuring and various legislation pertaining to customer choice in electricity and natural gas industries (1/14/97)
9. Weekly Scheduling Meeting - Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N96.12.213 (Kate)

On December 19, 1996, Citizens Telecommunications filed an entire replacement of its existing local exchange tariff to make content and format changes. Content changes in the new tariff (as directed by Commission Order #5731c) are removal of all text and rates pertaining to multi-party service, mileage charges, Eureka-Rexford Suburban Rate Area, and base rate areas. The rest of the tariff revisions are formatting and minor corrections.

2. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N96.12.215 (Nina)

On December 20, 1996, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 96-43, "Start-Up Business Packages," which provides telecommunication services tailored to meet the specific needs of new businesses. The proposed packages are "solutions" based and provide flexibility for new businesses to add features to their access lines. These packages replace the temporary offerings for Start Up Businesses offered from March 11, 1996 through March 7, 1997. Customers who subscribe to new business service, have a choice from three packages to meet their communications needs and to receive a one-time credit on their bill. This was a notice item on the agenda of 1/6/97. Staff recommends approval.

3. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N96.12.216 (Nina)

On December 20, 1996, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 96-44, "Free Installation Celebration," for the introduction of promotional offerings for business and residence customers of multiple products. Promotional offerings will be made to both residential and business customers during the period January 6, 1997 through February 14, 1997. The promotion will be available to new and existing customers who subscribe to any of the referenced service on new, change, transfer and record orders during the period. This was a notice item on the agenda of 1/6/97. Staff recommends approval.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - Docket N96.12.212 (Bonnie)

On December 18, 1996, Sprint Communications filed changes to its interexchange telecommunication services which increase Sprint Sense Operator Services off-Peak usage rates and FONCARD service charges. Sprint also introduces Resale Solutions Payphone Service Charge and Wholesale Communications Payphone Service Charge. Additionally text changes are made to Foncard and Operator Services tariffs.

2. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N96.12.217 (Bonnie)

On December 23, 1996, USWC filed Tariff Transmittal 96.45 proposing restructuring of the Business Voice Messaging Service offering.

3. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N96.12.218 (Bonnie)

On December 23, 1996, USWC filed Tariff Transmittal 96.46 which introduces new optional dialing capability for calling card, third number and collect billing.

4. RONAN TELEPHONE - Docket N97.1.1 (Bonnie)

On December 31, 1996, Ronan Telephone Co. filed Schedule P, a promotional reduction of rates for residential second line during the period of January.

5. SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE - Docket N97.1.2 (Bonnie)

On January 3, 1997, Southern Montana Telephone filed a tariff revision to implement a late payment penalty on delinquent accounts.

6. CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N96.12.214 (Kate)

On December 20, 1996, Central Montana Communications filed to remove from its tariff the section on private payphones as well as any references to that section in the rest of the tariff. According to the company, this filing was prompted by recent action by the Federal Communications Commission regarding the regulatory status of private payphones.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Columbia Heights Water Co. Docket D96.8.134 - NSA suspending procedural schedule was served January 6, 1997

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-1-21

Docket N96.12.212 SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (Bonnie)
Docket N96.12.217 US WEST COMMUNICATIONS (Bonnie)
Docket N96.12.218 US WEST COMMUNICATIONS (Bonnie)
Docket N97.1.1 RONAN TELEPHONE (Bonnie)
Docket N97.1.2 SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE (Bonnie)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N97.1.1 Ronan Telephone Co Residential Second Line Promotion
N97.1.2 Southern Montana Telephone Late Payment Penalty
N97.1.3 USWC Project Area Designation - O'Rea Creek/Livingston